(ii) Development of designs and blue prints and use of marking schemes to familiarize the teachers and students about the nature of the questions and the question papers.

(iii) Publication of sample question papers.

(iv) Introduction of multiple sets of question papers.

(v) Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school based evaluation.

(vi) Elimination of overall aggregation of marks.

(vii) Three chances of compartment examination are provided for class X and XII with the facility of compartment in two subjects in class X and one in class XII.

I.T. Institute in Uttaranchal

1790. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for opening of an Information Technology Institute in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, by when this Institute is proposed to be opened and the location therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Plight of children

1791. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after independence 40 per cent boys and over 50 per cent girls remain unenrolled in schools in primary stage itself;

(b) whether with an estimated 100 million, India has the highest number of working children in the world;

(c) whether Indian child has to survive and grow in an environment that is not child friendly; and

(d) if the answers to parts a, b and c are in affirmative what corrective measures are being taken by Government to ameliorate the plights and conditions of four hundred million children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As per the Selected Educational Statistics, brought out by the Ministry for the year 2000-01, the population of children in the age group 6-11 years is 11.90 crores and the number of boys and girls enrolled at primary stage is 11.38 crores.

(b) According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in the country was 11.28 million. The last labour force survey of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted in 1999-2000 has put the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years a little above 10 million.

(c) and (d) To ensure universalisation of elementary education, the Government has launched the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in November, 2000 with the following objectives:—

- All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back to School' camp by 2003;
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010;

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan envisages bridging gender and social disparities existent at elementary level of education. It has a special focus on the educational needs of girls, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, urban deprived children and other children in difficult circumstances.

Government is also implementing the Mid-day Meal Scheme in all States and U.Ts. except Lakshadweep (which has its own scheme) under which foodgrain at the rate of 100 grams per child per day is supplied to States for provision of a meal to the children in Government, Government-aided and local body primary schools as well as, learning centres established under EGS&AIE.

Recently the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 has been enacted to make Education for Children in the age group 6-14 years a Fundamental Right.

The Government of India has also been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the NCLP is the running of Special Schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. At present, NCLPs are under implementation in 100 districts in 13 child labour endemic states for the coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

1792. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether the scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan for improving vocational skills and quality of life under the National Literacy Mission is covering districts with low literacy level as per 2001 census or the scheme is haphazardly undertaken defeating its purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Jan Shikshan Sansthans are set up with the aim of conducting vocational training and skill upgradation in the areas of programmes of non-formal, adult and Continuing Education. It would also provide academic and technical resource support to Zila Saksharata Samitis in both urban and rural areas. Jan Shikshan Sansthan are sanctioned on the basis of feasibility study reports submitted on proposals of Non-Governmental Organisations, the status of literacy programmes under National Literacy Mission in the Districts and also keeping in view distributive justice among States.

Culture and values in education

1793. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main thrust and impact of the scheme to strengthen culture and values in education; and

(b) whether the scheme is being implemented as per its prescribed norms; and if not, the anomalies thereof?